REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Delcotto for withdrawing the rejections over U.S. 5,308,532 to Adler et al. and WO 02/16356, as indicated on page 2 of the present Office Action. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the remarks of record, and the additional remarks below.

In the present invention, re-deposition of fouling, very often observed in toilet bowls, can be prevented, even with washing several times, with maintenance by initial antifouling. In particular, toilet bowl surfaces are treated with an antifouling detergent composition comprising a polymer having the low weight-average molecular weight of the claimed invention. Such a low molecular weight polymer is advantageous and provides for the prevention of the re-deposition.

The references of record do not describe or suggest such a method of antifouling and washing hard surfaces of *toilet bowls*.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 6,251,849 to Jeschke et al., and the rejection of claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Jeschke et al. are traversed and obviated by amendment.

The rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) obvious over JP 2001-271094 are also traversed and obviated by amendment.

Moreover, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 6,593,288 to Aubay et al., and the rejection of claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Aubay et al. are traversed and obviated by amendment.

In particular, it is noted that while the Jeschke et al. reference generally describes an all purpose detergent and bathroom washing, there is no showing or indication of a specific method of antifouling and washing the hard surfaces of *toilet bowls*, as presently claimed.

Regarding JP 2001-271094, it is noted that the reference describes a bathroom washing detergent, but fails to suggest the desirability of specifically antifouling and washing the hard surfaces of *toilet bowls*.. Moreover, it is noted that there is no indication of the molecular weight of the disclosed polymer, nor any motivation shown for implementing a polymer with the claimed low molecular weight.

Regarding Aubay et al., the reference generally describes polymer composition for use on various hard surfaces, and for dishwashing, which is not the claimed invention. It is noted that the molecular weight of the monomer in the polymer may broadly range from 1,000 to 20,000,000. However, there is no showing or indication of antifouling and washing the hard surfaces of *toilet bowls* with a composition having a monomer in the claimed narrower range. Applicants also note that if molecular weight is in the range of 500,00 to 1,700,000, such treatment with compositions containing such polymers will not prevent re-deposition of fouling with repeated use. However, the reference does not provide any guidance or suggestion of any advantages or disadvantages of different ranges.

As such, one would clearly not rely on the disclosure of this reference, nor the disclosures of any of the above-discussed references, for achieving the claimed invention.

Therefore, the method of the claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

The objection to claims 1-11 is obviated by amendment, as shown above.

The objection to the present specification is obviated by amendment, as shown above.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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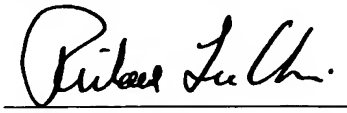

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